



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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ST. PETERSBURG MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CABLE T.V. FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced Timothy Scott Simpson, a 44 year old resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud involving a nation-wide scheme to defraud providers of cable television channels. The maximum penalty Simpson faces is five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100.

Simpson pleaded guilty to devising a mail fraud scheme in which he advertised and sold "non-addressable" or "bulletproof" cable television descramblers over an internet website called "MyBoxx.com." The descramblers enabled persons who subscribed to receive "basic" cable television channels to receive "premium" channels, such as HBO and Showtime, without payment of the additional fee the cable television providers usually charge for premium channels. In the written plea agreement filed with the Court, Simpson admitted to selling almost 8,000 cable descramblers from August 2000 to March 2003, and receiving \$1,196,925 from those sales.

As part of the plea agreement, Simpson has agreed to forfeit to the government a house located in Villa Park Estate in St. Petersburg valued at approximately \$800,000, and a 2002 Porsche 911 convertible which were purchased with proceeds from the sales, as well as the contents of several bank accounts.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Clearwater Office and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Dennis I. Moore.